



MYT-236US

PATENT

1771

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dharshini C. Fongalland et al. : Art Unit: 1771  
Serial No.: 09/807,655 : Examiner: Jennifer A. Boyd  
Filed: April 16, 2001 :  
For: SUBSTRATE BINDER :

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

S I R :

In response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows and reconsider the application in view of the amendments and remarks provided below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓ ✓ ✓  
Please cancel claims 1-12, 15 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please replace claims 17 and 23 with the following amended claims:

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- 1 17. (Twice amended) A process for the manufacture of a membrane,  
2 comprising the steps of
- 3 (i) forming a porous substrate by a process comprising the steps of
- 4 a. dispersing fibres in water to form a slurry;
- 5 b. depositing the slurry onto a mesh bed to form a fibre  
6 network;
- 7 c. drying and compacting the fibre network; and
- 8 d. applying to the fibre network, before or after step (c), a  
9 dispersion of a binder comprising both silica and a fluorinated  
10 polymer; and thereafter,
- 11 (ii) impregnating the fibre matrix substrate with a polymeric material  
12 to produce a membrane.
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